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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,376	02/10/2004	Hidegori Sakai	040356-0502	1116
22428	7590	12/29/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			CHARLES, MARCUS	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3000 K STREET NW			3682	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS	12/29/2006		PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/774,376	SAKAI, HIDENORI	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Marcus Charles	3682		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2-10-2004 and 03-04-2005.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first action relating to serial application number 10/774,376 filed 02/10/2004.

Claims 1-9 are currently pending.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The examiner has accepted the drawing filed with this application as formal drawing.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in page 6, para [0022] line 10, "FW" was described as the entire width of the flank and in lines 11-12, 'FW" is described as a location where the thread is disposed. Therefore, it is unclear as to the description of the reference "FW". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, it is not clear as top what height is "slight height" referring to. The term sight height is a subjective and relative term. Therefore, it is not clear if the claim is referring top a particular height.

In claim 2, the intended scope of the claim is unclear because the ranges 0-1.2 and 0-4.8 overlaps and it is unclear if when Y reaches 0.1.2 of the second range if the sectional area will be 10% or 40%.

Claim 9 is confusing because it is not clear as to how the number of one element can be greater or equal to 30% of the plurality of connected elements. The intended scope of this claim is unclear because it is not clear if the one element is different than the connected elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 4 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP (0994275) to Smeets et al. Smeets et al. disclose a metal for a CVT, the belt comprises elements (6) and carriers (7) and transmitting torque between two pulleys (2/4); the elements comprising a flank (8) which comprises a plurality of threads disposed substantially to one another and having a height relative to a dimension mention of the flank, wherein the top section of each thread being substantially planar.

In claim 4, as can be seen in fig. 5, it is apparent that as the surface area from the top (18) increases as depth of the groove increases.

In claim 7, it is apparent that the threads of the flank extend substantially in the direction movement of the element.

In claim 8, note the length of the threads is substantially equal to the width of the flank at a location where each thread is disposed.

In claim 9, as understood, it appears that the number of one element is equal or greater than 30% of the total elements of the chain.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smeets et al. Smeets et al. fail to disclose the range of the depth in relation to the occupied area of the flanks, the height of the flanks and the pitch of the threads is approximately 0.2 millimeters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the threads of Smeets et al. to include the limitation not disclosed by Smeets et al., since it has been held that where the conditions of the claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Citation

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kobayashi (6,893,370), Kanokogi et al. (6,599,212 and 6,440,024) and JP (10-213185) disclose a metal chain comprising elements having threaded section on the flank.
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcus Charles whose telephone number is (571) 272-7101. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ridley Richard can be reached on (571) 272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Marcus Charles
Marcus Charles
Primary Examiner
Art. 3682

DECEMBER 19, 2006